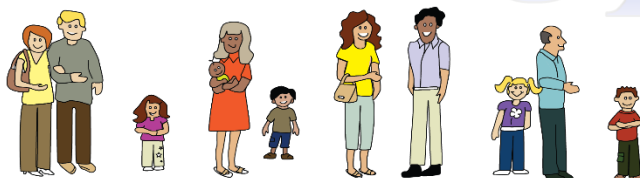


THE BEACON

THE BEACON



a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2020

January Highlights



– Sunday, January 5th
Holy Communion

The God Squad to “Common Cathedral”

Sunday, January 5th at 11 a.m.



Gospel Music Sunday

January 19th at 10 a.m.

Moving spirituals in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 25th at 8:30 a.m.



Last Chance to Complete the “Can” Tree!

Donations of canned and boxed food will be accepted

thru **Sunday, January 5th** for our Can Tree!

Please make one final donation to make this the biggest tree ever!

Thank you!

Knight Lines

I'm writing this on December 16th, and when you get around to reading the newsletter, we'll probably still be in the Twelve Days of Christmas. So let me simply share some of my favorite quotes about Christmas that didn't make it into the Advent devotional, *"The Best Things Ever Said About Christmas."* Consider these the honorable mentions.

*"God walked down the stairs of heaven with a Baby in his arms."
Paul Scherer*

*He came as a tiny Babe
that he might better understand
our sufferings;
He was born into poverty
lest we think him a monarch;
He came not to dominate,
but to motivate;
not to condemn,
but to forgive;
not to oppress,
but to free our souls;
not to compel,
but to teach us
the truest measure
of unselfish Love.*

*Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine.
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine.
Love to God and to all, love shall be our gift and sign.
Christina Rossetti*

*Jesus came . . .
so we might see God's face.
Jesus lived . . .
so we might know God's plan.
Jesus died . . .
so we might feel God's love.
Jesus rose . . .
so we might meet again
As you celebrate Jesus' birth,
May you know it was his love for you
That brought him here.*

*Serving our Savior with You,
Pastor Rich*

What's Happening at CCC!

COMMON CATHEDRAL

On **Sunday, January 5th**, the God Squad is attending Common Cathedral where we will serve lunch to approximately 100 people. Common Cathedral serves as an important community for people experiencing homelessness, and for faith communities who want to be in a supportive relationship with un-housed individuals and their friends. They share God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

In preparation for this trip, the God Squad is meeting on **Saturday, January 4th** at the Bottomley's house (8 Overlook Drive, Chelmsford) from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. to make sandwiches for the next day. After the sandwiches are made, we'll enjoy pizza, fellowship, and games. The more people that attend, the quicker we can prepare the lunches and the more time we have for fun!

We will also be having a Yankee Swap with the suggested price for Yankee Swap gifts of \$10.

We would also like to bring brownies to serve on Sunday. Please let me know if you can bring a batch of brownies on Saturday evening.

On Sunday, January 5th, we will meet in Fellowship Hall after the Sunday School Recessional and carpool from CCC to the Boston Common. We will attend the service and then provide lunches to participants. Please make sure to dress appropriately for the weather. We should be back to CCC around 3:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Gwen Bottomley at gwen.bottomley@gmail.com for these events by January 1. Please also indicate if you can drive and the number of seats in your car.

GUEST SPEAKER KEITH WEST

On **Sunday, January 12th** in Fellowship Hall, at 11:30 a.m. during Coffee Hour

The ONA Ministry Team invites you to attend "A Discussion of Gender, Pronouns, Identity and More." This event will include a presentation and discussion of the issues facing the LGBTQ+ community with a focus on how gender is being defined and understood by many members of the community. The goal is to understand how people are talking and thinking about their identities so that we can all become more caring, informed, and respectful. This is also a place for you to ask questions you're not sure you can ask elsewhere without judgement and in the interest of greater understanding. I hope you'll join us!

Contact Lynn Horton, if you have questions Lynn@terpsoft.com or 978-256-8524.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Regular classes will be held on **Sunday, January 12 and 26** following worship.

GOSPEL MUSIC SUNDAY

On **Sunday, January 19th** in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, we will celebrate "Gospel Music Sunday." All the hymns and music will be spirituals. Join us for an inspiring time of worship!

KiSeLo – KIndness, SErvice, LOve

We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, January 22nd**, for our monthly KiSeLo meeting which will begin at 1 p.m. with dessert served by our hostesses – Marcia Crissey, Barbara Lea, and Sue Houde.

Our program will be book reviews and a book swap. Each member is invited to bring a book or title of a book which she has enjoyed reading. This is not mandatory, but is encouraged. Everyone who is willing could speak briefly about her book and why she enjoyed it. Last winter, many members shared reviews, and we were busy taking notes for trips to the library!

Those who would like to may participate in a book swap, so bring along any books you've finished and want to share. Both fiction and non-fiction books are welcome, as are books on tape. We hope this will be a fun, informative, and inspirational time of sharing.

Our Open Pantry suggestion for January is soup. In this cold time of year, let's warm the tummies and hearts of those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lyons (978-930-6830). Hope to see YOU on January 22nd!

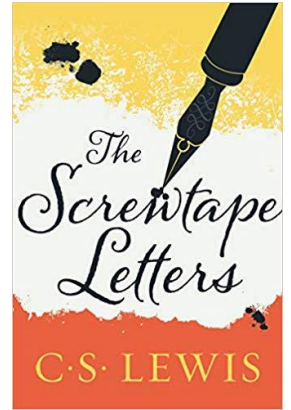
MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, January 25th**, at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come for a delicious meal and great conversation. Please sign up with the church office by Thursday, January 24th at noon to reserve your spot.

WINTER BOOK CLUB

Pastor Rich will be doing a book club on CS Lewis' classic, *The Screwtape Letters*. Three discussion meetings will be held on **Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Rm. 202, starting January 28**. Rich is also willing to lead an evening discussion group on Monday or Tuesday nights. Contact him if you're interested. You may order the book yourself or borrow it from a local library. We're also happy to order it for you for \$12.00. Amazon says this about the book:

"*The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written."



EVENING OF LOVE SONGS

We will once again be holding our "*Evening of Love Songs*" on **Saturday, February 8th**, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Rich to sign up.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

Bring your own lunch and join Pastor Rich and a group of friends **every Tuesday** at noon in room 202.

CALLING ALL SCOUTS!

Sunday, February 9th is Scout Sunday and we need your help. Any Scout BSA, Cub Scout, Girl Scout, Brownie, or Daisy interested in being part of the church service, please contact Gwen Bottomley at gwen.bottomley@gmail.com. Positions available include: ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers.

Our Church Committees in Action!

FLOWER CALENDAR FROM SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

The 2020 flower calendar has been posted on the Sanctuary Committee bulletin board along the ramp in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to sign up to donate flowers on a Sunday during the year, please put your name and phone number next to the date of the Sunday you want to reserve. In the week before the Sunday you requested, you will be contacted by a member of the Sanctuary Committee. You will be asked to provide the dedication to be listed in the bulletin, the amount you want to spend (typically \$45 - \$55), and whether you want to take the flowers home or have the Diaconate take them to someone who needs their day brightened.

Please consider donating flowers on a day special to you. This past year we only had flowers donated about 60% of the time. The rest of the time we had to see the same artificial arrangement on the altar and potentially someone did not have their day brightened by the gift of flowers.

Dick Papenfuss for the Sanctuary Committee

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The House Committee wishes a blessed new year to all of you. We'll continue to help where and when we can to ensure that everyone who uses the church is safe and comfortable. We continue to take care of trash and recyclables, and we transport canned and boxed donations to the Open Pantry. If anyone sees a problem that can be addressed by the House Committee, please let Linn know or contact Mary Horne at marywh54@gmail.com or 978-729-5632.

SAM's JANUARY FOCUS WILL BE TO SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE HOUSE!



The Social Action and Missions Committee's (SAM) special charity for the month of January is Alternative House in Lowell. Alternative House is a member of Jane Doe, Inc. They provide emergency (up to 90 days) confidential shelter for battered women and their children who are fleeing an abusive situation. Support groups are available for women who have experienced or are experiencing domestic or dating violence.

The mission of the Alternative House is "to facilitate the creation of a society in which violence against women will no longer exist. As a means to this end, we offer shelter, support, options, counseling, and advocacy for all battered women (and their children) who seek our help. We are committed to the empowerment of women toward self-sufficiency." Alternative House provides community education to reform societal attitudes that allow violence against women.

URGENT NEED! There is a very short supply of Baby Diapers – size 5 and 6 for 2-3 year-olds

Household Needs List

- ✓ Pillows
- ✓ Comforters

School Items

- ✓ Backpacks
- ✓ School Supplies

Personal Care Items

- ✓ Hairbrushes, Shampoo, Conditioner
- ✓ Body Washes
- ✓ Deodorant
- ✓ Towels (bath, hand)

SAM's collection basket/boxes will be in the Narthex for the month of January. If you would prefer, (or in addition), to make a cash donation, there are envelopes in the pews for that purpose. Thank you, CCC, for any and all help you can give to this rescue sanctuary. The Social Action and Missions Committee is very grateful for your donations to the women and children at Alternative House! Contact Ellen Kunkel at 978-256-2793 for questions and/or further information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) NEWS

Happy January from your Christian Education (CE) Committee. We are so grateful for all the excitement and participation from our youth throughout the Advent Season. The Holy Cows and the God Squad did great work setting up the Holiday Fair. The young elementary students decided to buy the flowers for the sanctuary one week with their offerings in order to learn more about how the church works.

We began December with a fantastic Advent Festival. Many thanks to the organizers and to the performers who made the event so much fun for all of us. In mid-December, the youth put on the Christmas pageant and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for the Christmas story. Thanks to Jennie Walsh, Carolyn Chapman, and Kelly Hargett for their leadership with the play this year.

The God Squad will attend the Common Cathedral in Boston on January 5th where they will serve a meal to the homeless and then worship with them.

Moving ahead, we are looking forward to the Teacher Appreciation Brunch to be held in early February. It is one of the few times of the year our teachers are able to gather and share fellowship, ideas, triumphs, troubles, and quiche. It is a treasured event that shows support for this group of people who make our youth ministry possible.

And remember, the Souper Bowl will also be held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2nd.

Ministries in Our Church



Please join us on **Tuesday, January 14th**, at 7 p.m. at the Carson home for an evening of fellowship as we create shawls that will bring joy to those in need of love and care. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. *Linda Carson*

CHRISTCARE

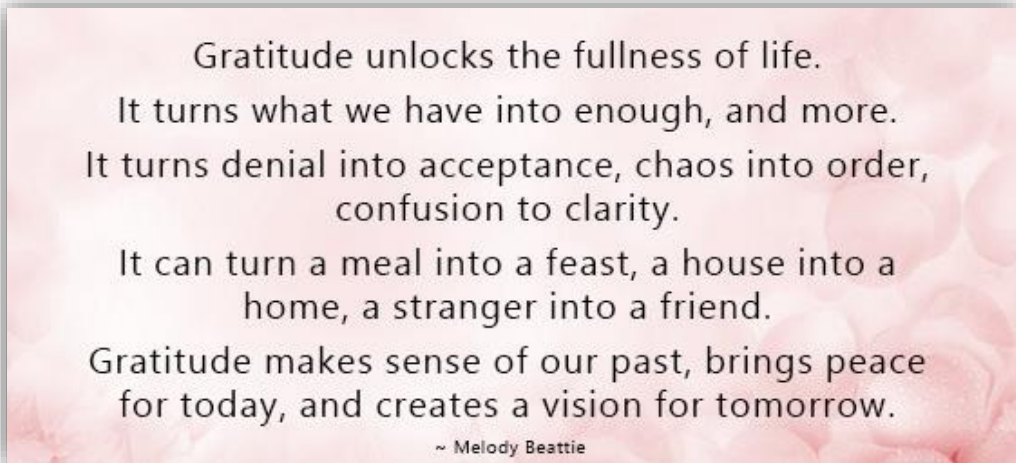
Central Congregational Church has two small groups, called ChristCare groups.

- Glenn Dissinger leads a men's group on two Sunday mornings a month.
- Deb Lyons leads a women's group, which usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings each month (January 14th and 28th at 7:00 p.m.). The women's group is continuing to study The Way of Prayer.

Please speak to Deb Lyons or Glenn Dissinger if you are interested in joining one of these groups. They are a wonderful way to deepen relationships with fellow church members and with God.

Deb Lyons, deb@dandelyons.net or 978-930-6830

PRAYER MINISTRY



If you wish to be a part of the Prayer Ministry, or have prayer requests for yourself or others, please contact Daphne Freeman, uklady446@yahoo.com, Ginnie Hall, vrh9159@comcast.net, or Wendy Perry, wperry39@comcast.net.

Notices & Announcements

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU'S!

We have many people to thank for a lovely Advent/Christmas Season. Our thanks to . . .

- ★ Tudor, our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and SonLight for all the beautiful music! The concert, Sunday mornings, and Christmas Eve were all filled with wonderful music! And Thank You, Music Committee, for all your work on the Christmas concert!
- ★ Jen Stuart and all who helped with the Advent Festival. Great food, crafts, music, and fun!
- ★ Patrick Fallon for his volunteer snow removal work, starting out with a 21" snow storm! Thanks, Patrick!
- ★ The Social Action and Mission Committee for their work on the "Secret Santa" program and all the Secret Santa's who provided 120 gifts for 30 families!
- ★ All who planned and participated in the Children's Christmas Pageant and God Squad Skit. Thank you Jennie Walsh & Carolyn Chapman, Steve Hartigan & Will Hargett. and all our great CCC kids & teens!
- ★ Pastor John and Shirley Zachry for the "Birthday Party for Jesus." Inspiring and delicious!
- ★ Dick Papenfuss and all who helped with the Christmas Tree Sale! The weather worked against us, but we still turned a healthy profit.
- ★ The Sanctuary Committee for beautifully decorating the sanctuary and all the poinsettia sponsors who helped, too!
- ★ All the donors to the "We Can" food drive and to the Rudewicz Family for organizing it all!
- ★ All who gave to the Christmas Eve offering for the Lowell Transitional Living Center. \$2,673.50 was donated.
- ★ Our church staff who worked very hard during this busy time of year to provide us all with great music, inspiring services and programs, attractive, informative bulletins, and sparkling facilities!

Please forgive us and inform us if we've left out anyone. Thanks.

MILESTONES

On Sunday, December 22nd, we baptized Emmett Stephen McCarthy. Emmett is the son of Justin and April McCarthy and little brother to Finley. He was born on September 20, 2019. His Godparents are Maura Lia and Jason Knapp.

Our prayers are with the Nickless family at this time. Herb Nickless passed away on December 9th. He was the beloved husband of June Nickless to whom he had been married for 66 years! A funeral service was held at CCC on December 17th. Memorial donations in Herb's name may be made to Central Congregational Church.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

Lighting the steeple is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. It costs only \$5 for a week. No one has signed up, so **there are many weeks available**. Please sign-up on the Sanctuary Committee bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

We light our Steeple for the week of:

- ♥ December 29th for Sue Sarafinas in loving memory of her grandson, Alex Bowers, and in honor of her grandson, Brandon Bowers, who were born on January 1st.
- ♥ January 12th for Curtis and Donna Bates in loving memory of Curt's mother, Barbara E. Bates.
- ♥ January 26th for Donna and Curt Bates in loving memory of their dear friend, Robin Mullin.

TAKE NOTE

- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Friday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Thursday morning.
- ✓ The February *Beacon* deadline is **Tuesday, January 21st** with a mailing/emailing date of January 29th.
- ✓ The Church Office will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1st!
- ✓ The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 20th, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.
- ✓ Remember to use the PO Box 339 when mailing things to the Church.
- ✓ Do You Need a Ride to Church? Transportation to Sunday services and other church events is available. Please call the CCC Transportation Hotline at **978-905-8220**. A church deacon will contact you and make the arrangements to drive you to the church.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES RESULTS

This year turned out to be the worst sales year in all the 34 - 35 years we have been selling trees. The profits this year will be approximately \$3000 as opposed to last year's \$8450. We had 90 trees and 30 wreaths left when we shut down on December 23. I have been unable to come up with a rational explanation for the drop from year to year. Every year since 2001, we have sold more trees than we did this year. We will be ordering less next year and lowering our expectations.

Despite the poor outcome of the year, I want to thank the many volunteers who came out to help, unloading, setting up the stand, and spending some miserable shifts doing your best to sell our inventory. Many of you answered my pleas and worked extra shifts which I definitely appreciated. I know I do not have all of the names of all who worked as some people showed up unexpectedly but were still appreciated. Below is the list of those who I have recorded and I offer my apologies to those I am missing. *Dick Papenfuss, Chairman*

Brian Acheson	Bennett Acheson	Caden Acheson	Cindy Acheson
Ed Acheson	Curtis Bates	David Belleville	Monique Billingsley
Alex Bottomley	Mitchell Bottomley	Nick Bottomley	Scott Bottomley
John Carson	Lillian Chapman	Joe Chapman	Glenn Dissinger
Margie Dissinger	Scott Dorman	Will Dorman	Jennifer Delikat
Don Delikat	Patrick Fallon	Lynn Horton	Sherm Horton
Jay Hungate	John Lefebvre	Catherine Loew	Elmer Lyons
Hunter Lyons	Katherine Morin	Peter Morin	Lindsey Moore
Shaun Moore	Janie O'Brien	Tim O'Brien	Kenny Pantuso
Ray Peterson	Derek Sorensen	Kristoff Strobel	Mark Timmins
Brenden Viarella	Janine Viarella	Jim Viarella	Jonathon Walsh
Joseph Walsh	Joshua Walsh	Peter White	John Zachry
Shirley Zachry	and last but not least all the scouts, leaders, and parents of BSA Troop 74		

Calendar January



CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
One Worthen Street
PO Box 339
Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339

January
2020

Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford

United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

"A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service"

We invite you to join us in worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight	978-256-5931 978-684-2031 (cell)	pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org
Director of Music	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Linn Flint	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Custodian	Juarez Gomes		
Sunday School Coordinator	Jen Stuart	978-250-8538	jennifer.stuart@cccchelmsford.org
Church Location:	One Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA		
Church Mailing Address:	PO Box 339, Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339		
Church Phone:	978-256-5931	Church e-mail:	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Church Fax:	978-250-3565	Church Web site:	www.cccchelmsford.org
		Conference Web site:	www.macucc.org

The Beacon, the CCC Newsletter, is prepared by and for the membership of Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. It is published monthly except for August and is distributed to members and friends of Central Congregational Church. This issue was emailed/mailed December 31, 2019.